



preschool ministry

COVID-19 edition

2020 - 2021

Welcome to the Preschool Ministry at FBC Midlothian, better known as Noah's Neighborhood!

We are so excited to have your child(ren) in our care during this unusual time and we want you to know all about our purpose, our priorities and policies. Everything we do is designed to keep your child safe, secure and healthy while in our care. We also aim to partner with you by providing educational materials and guidance to enable you to be the intentional Spiritual leader for your family.

Serving Him,



Libby Laughlin

Libby Laughlin

Preschool Pastor

PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

PURPOSE BEHIND PRESCHOOL MINISTRY

The ministries in Noah's Neighborhood exist to provide young children with a Christ-centered environment in which they can grow spiritually, emotionally, physically, and intellectually.

MINISTRY PROGRAMS FOR PRESCHOOLERS

- **Noah's Neighborhood** - Sunday School for children Birth – Kindergarten.
- **Noah's Ark Bible School** - Tuesday and Thursday Mother's Day Out program.

OBJECTIVES OF OUR MINISTRY PROGRAMS

We seek to help each child:

- begin to associate God, Jesus, and the Bible with feelings of wonder, love, and happiness.
- know that Jesus loves him/her and others.
- think of church as "my church" – a happy place.
- grow in independence by learning to make good choices.
- have experiences in solving problems, sharing, and expressing self.
- begin to show love, respect, and acceptance of others.
- feel comfortable, happy, loved, and secure.
- have a Christ-centered home.

PROVISIONS AND PLACEMENT

In Noah's Neighborhood children are classified by developmental stages up until the age of TWO. Then we classify preschoolers by their age/grade (Kindergarten) as of September 1. Classroom placement may vary from program to program depending on the number of children enrolled or sign-up for each event.

PRESCHOOL PROGRAMS

PRESCHOOL SUNDAY SCHOOL

We provide a variety of learning experiences in each class. During this pandemic season, children will attend preschool Sunday school and participate in these learning experiences for one hour while parents attend worship.

Preschool Sunday school is led by volunteers who have completed a background check and who have completed child abuse awareness training.

All Sunday school curriculum is age appropriate and activity center based so that the child is able to discover the focus of the lesson and experience activities that help relate the Bible lesson to everyday life.

We partner with parents through weekly newsletter, Facebook and Instagram posts regarding the upcoming lesson and through the activity sheet sent home every Sunday that provide ideas on how to extend the lesson through the coming week.



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NOAH'S ARK BIBLE SCHOOL

Tuesdays and Thursdays..... 8:30 am - 2:00 pm

(2020-2021 hours will be 8:30 am – 1:00 pm)

At Noah's Ark Bible School, preschooler's learn about God and the world around them that He created along with biblical approach to learning and classroom management. NABS utilizes a developmentally appropriate curriculum including Wee Learn, Gospel Light and the experience of our highly qualified teachers. The Love & Logic guidance philosophy encompasses our approach to learning at NABS.

Please go to fbcmidlo.com/nabs for further program information.

CHILDCARE

During this PANDEMIC season, we have suspended most of our adult ministry events both on and off campus. In an effort to protect both children and staff, we have temporarily suspended all childcare as well. Once we believe we can provide a safe environment and have the workers to staff rooms, we will resume childcare. This will be announcement through all information avenues. Thank you for understanding.

SECURITY AND SAFETY

CHECKING IN

We are always excited to see your child and we want to make your check-in process as simple as possible.

During this pandemic season, we have made checking in touchless! Before you arrive at church, use the CHURCH CENTER APP to check in each child. Upon check-in you will receive a QR CODE. Once you arrive on campus, find a check-in kiosk in the atrium, scan your QR CODE with the kiosk tablet and your numbered security tag and child's name tags will print out.

Place the name tag on your child's back and have your numbered security tag ready to show the greeter to gain access into the preschool area. A picture of the numbered security tag on your phone will also be accepted as your access pass. You will need to show this numbered security tag every time you want to enter into the preschool area.

To minimize the number of people in the preschool area and to help with social distancing, only one parent will be allowed to drop-off and pick-up their preschoolers. All other family members are asked to please wait out in the atrium.

School age children are asked to use the atrium stairway to access Kidlothian. The stairway in the preschool area is now for emergency use only.

If at any time you have trouble with checking in please find a greeter located at the café for assistance. Thank you for trusting us with your child! We consider this an honor and a privilege.

DISMISSAL

When picking up your child, only one parent/guardian or sibling age 16 or older with the numbered security tag will be allowed past the glass doors. All other family will be asked to please wait in the atrium. You will be asked to show the numbered security tag again at the classroom door so that the number can be matched to the name badge on the child. Children will not be released to anyone without the matching numbered security sticker. If your sticker is lost, you will be asked to go to the greeters' desk in the atrium and provide identification so that they can verify and confirm who has the authority to pick up said child.

The preschool pastor and the teachers need to be notified if someone other than those authorized will be picking up your child. Teachers will release children only to those who have the correct numbered security tag, a picture of the numbered security tag on phone or a copy of the child's name tag, signed by a paid supervisor or the preschool pastor.

No child should ever be left in a room unattended. Please either wait for a leader to arrive or go the Noah's Neighborhood greeters' desk to let them know that no leader is present.

GENERAL INFORMATION

WAYS PARENTS CAN HELP

We encourage you to bring your child to church regularly. Talk to your child positively about church and the happy experiences there.

To minimize the spread of germs we are asking all parents to not enter the preschool classrooms. Please leave your child with the leader at the door. If your child cries when you bring him or her to class, we suggest you leave your child with the leaders as quickly as possible.

Children usually stop crying shortly thereafter. If your child cannot be consoled within 10 minutes, we will send you a text and ask you to return to Noah's Neighborhood so that we can discuss how best to care for your child.

Once your child is in the room, if you would like to observe your child, we recommend you view the classroom activities on the television that is next to the preschool desk.

We ask that you pick up your child immediately following the close of each event. Even the most well-adjusted child may become anxious if he or she is left after the others have gone.

Please provide any information to the leaders that may affect your child's behavior during the session. (IE. Child did not sleep well night before, child has been with grandparents, child is cutting teeth, etc.)

Please label ALL BELONGINGS: (diaper bag, bottles, cups, pacifiers, sweaters, jackets, etc.) We cannot be held responsible for returning unmarked items to the correct bag/child.

ILLNESS AND MEDICATION

The church believes it is in the best interest of everyone for a sick child to rest and heal at home, especially if the child has a contagious disease or illness. We encourage one to err on the side of preventing the spread of illness and disease when faced with the decision of whether to stay home or bring the child to church.

Listed below are a few examples and situations in which a child SHOULD NOT be brought to church:

- Fever of 100.0+ (during the last 24 hours)
- Sore throat
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea (during the last 24 hours)
- Any symptoms of the usual childhood diseases (scarlet fever, German measles, mumps, chicken pox, and whooping cough.)
- Common cold
- Croup
- Any unexplained rash
- Any skin infection (boils, ringworm, impetigo)
- Pink eye and other eye infections
- Signs of infection indicated by drainage from the nose, eyes, or ears

A child must be symptom free for 24 hours (a full day and night) before returning to the preschool.

Questions about these conditions should be referred to the preschool pastor. The church realizes that children sometimes become ill quickly. The severity of the nature and transmission of viruses and diseases vary greatly. Any child who appears ill while under our care will be isolated and parents will be notified to come and pick up quickly.

Leaders and childcare staff are not permitted to give medication to any child at any time.

HYGIENE AND SANITATION

The following precautions are taken to help avoid the transmission of communicable disease:

- All workers will wash their hands upon arrival into the classroom, as needed during class, and prior to departure from the rooms.
- All workers will wear disposable gloves when changing diapers, assisting with toileting, serving snacks or when encountering body fluids.
- Classroom toys will be cleaned and sterilized by the teachers/childcare staff frequently throughout the event and at the end of the event and left to air dry.
- Hygiene and safety guidelines are posted in each preschool room. Teachers and staff are expected to follow these guidelines at all times.
- Children will wash their hands upon entry into the rooms, before eating, after being on the playground/playroom, and after toileting.

FEEDING

Noah's Neighborhood is a PEANUT FREE ZONE. During this pandemic season, we will not be serving snacks in the preschool area.

Parents of infants should send prepared bottles with exact mixing instructions. Children should be fed BEFORE coming into preschool classrooms. Our leaders and childcare workers are unable to serve meals.

Any food allergies should be reported to the leader or childcare staff. Alternative, NUT FREE snacks should be provided by parents.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Emergency Procedures and Evacuation Routes are posted in each classroom. All emergency procedures are reviewed annually with all volunteers and childcare staff.

Fire

All classes will exit the building according to their classroom evacuation plan and will gather at the north side of the main parking lot. The classes will line up one class per white parking stripe (in between cars). Parents are STRONGLY encouraged NOT to come to the preschool area to try and pick up their child. Once all children have been accounted for and the all clear is given, we will begin releasing children to their parents. Proper Identification will be required for a parent/guardian or sibling 16 years or older to pick up their child.

Severe Weather

Each preschool class is assigned to an interior room without windows and they will move to those rooms as soon as they are instructed to do so. Once inside these rooms, our goal is to not release children until the all clear is given and the threat of danger is past. Parents are STRONGLY encouraged not to try to come and pick up their child. Once the all clear has been given and it is safe to do so, children will return to their classes and will be dismissed from there. Proper identification will be required for parents/guardians or sibling 16 years or older to pick up their child.

Disturbance in the Building

The entire preschool area will go into immediate lock down. The classroom doors will be locked as well as the glass doors leading into the preschool and upstairs children's area. No one will be allowed into the preschool/ children's area until the all clear has been given. If the situation requires us to evacuate the building, the classes will move out into the parking lot heading to the north side as if it were a fire evacuation. They will continue to move to the designated SAFE PLACE which is over in the Baylor Parking Lot on the north side of the building complex. Classes will re-assemble, and children will be accounted for. Once the all clear has been given, parents/guardians or siblings 16 years or older will be allowed to pick up their children with proper identification.

All of these situations tend to cause panic and fear. Please know that we need to do all we can to keep the children as calm and as safe as possible in each situation. Please help us by cooperating with paid staff or emergency personnel instructions.